

Music and Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING YOUR APPLICATION.

When can I apply for MEBAS?

The Music and Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme will open for applications from 9 June 2021 to 7 July 2021. This date may be extended if funding remains available for the scheme. A business may make one application only under this scheme.

I am not registered for VAT, can I still apply?

Yes, you do not need to be registered for VAT in order to submit an application under this scheme.

If my Business is eligible, will I get a payment?

This scheme will operate with a limited fund of €14 million – eligibility does not guarantee the offer of a grant. Applications will be considered strictly by order of date and time of receipt by the Department.

My application has been approved and I am to receive a payment - How soon will I get my payment?

An email will issue, advising you of the outcome of your application. This email will detail the expected time it will take for payment to issue.

How much will I receive?

There will be three levels of flat once-off payments for approved applications:

- **Strand A –**
- €2,500 for businesses with a VAT-exclusive turnover of €20,000 - €50,000 with minimum business costs of €3,000 incurred from 1st April 2020 to 31st May 2021.
- **Strand B -**
- €4,000 for businesses with a VAT-exclusive turnover of €50,001 - €100,000 with minimum business costs of €6,000 from 1st April 2020 to 31st May 2021.
- **Strand C –**
- €5,000 for businesses with VAT-exclusive turnover in excess of €100,000 with minimum business costs of €7,500 from 1st April 2020 to 31st May 2021.

How will the grant be paid?

The grant will be paid to the business' bank account by EFT, using the details submitted on the application form.

What can I use the payment for?

The payment is made as a contribution to the overheads of businesses that have been significantly negatively affected by COVID-19.

How do I apply?

Please read the [MEBAS GUIDELINES](#) before starting your application. The application form for this scheme will be made available on the department's website at 1pm on 9th June 2021. Click on the "Start New Application" button and complete the form.

This form will require applicants to self-declare that they are ineligible for the CRSS, the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity Grant, the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID and are not in receipt of those grants or did not receive those grants. Businesses will be also asked to confirm that they are not registered charities, Not for Profit Organisations (NFP) or Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLG)

Applicants will also be asked to confirm that they do not operate from a rateable premises.

What are the criteria for qualifying for the MEBAS?

- Businesses whether sole traders, partnerships or incorporated entities operating exclusively within the live entertainment sector can apply for this scheme;
- the business must intend to resume trading in full once government restrictions are eased;
- Businesses of musicians and singers of all genres are eligible as are sound engineers, lighting engineers, audio engineers, stage managers, stage technicians, sound and lighting equipment suppliers, live-streaming equipment suppliers and full-time disc jockeys.
- The business must be located in the State and the address of the business for tax purposes must be located wholly within a geographical region for which COVID-19 restrictions are in operation;
- The turnover of the business for 1 April 2020 –31 March 2021 must be no more than 25% of the turnover of the business in the year for which accounts are submitted.
- Profits of the trade or trading activities of the business must be chargeable to tax under Case I of Schedule D;
- Businesses must be tax compliant.

The scheme operates on a self-assessment basis. Businesses are required to retain evidence and documentation which supports the basis for making a claim under the scheme as this may be requested by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (D/TCAGSM) under future eligibility checks.

The D/TCAGSM will arrange to carry out spot-checks to ensure compliance with the qualifying criteria.

I am asked to provide details in relation to business costs – what can I include?

Business costs include costs incurred in carrying out the operations of the business, such as bank fees, vehicle insurance costs, interest on loans, rent, insurance and service costs relating to equipment and other costs. Business costs incurred over the period 1 April 2020 – 31 May 2021 should be considered.

Will my details be published if I receive a grant?

Yes, details of individual awards will be published on the Department's website including, the name of the grantee; county in which the beneficiary is located; grant amount.

What is the closing date for this scheme?

The closing date for receipt of applications is 7 July 2021 at 1pm. The Scheme may close earlier if funding is exhausted.

This scheme will operate with a limited fund of €14 million. Due to the high volume of applications anticipated, it may not be possible to allocate funding to all eligible applicants. Applications will be considered strictly by order of date and time of receipt by the Department.

What documents will I need to upload with my application?

Businesses must upload the most recent year for which annual accounts (Audited Accounts / Accounts prepared by accountant / Sole Trader Tax Return) are available – the turnover figure for the business must be highlighted or circled and the page number for this detail must be indicated on the application.

Do I need to upload copies of receipts or invoices in relation to my business costs?

You do not need to upload copies of receipts or invoices in relation to your business costs at point of application. However, applicants should retain evidence and documentation which supports the basis for making a claim under the scheme as this may be requested by the D/TCAGSM under future eligibility checks.

How do I sign the form?

A typed signature should be provided where indicated on the last page of the application form.

If I am not happy with the decision regarding my application, can I appeal?

Yes, an appeal may be made by a business if the applicant considers that the process for reviewing their application was not adhered to. The business must be in receipt of a decision email from the MEBAS Team in order to make an appeal. An appeal must be made within 5 working days of the date on the decision email. Further information in relation to the MEBAS appeals process can be found [here](#).

I have applied for funding under the Live Performance Support Scheme (LPSS) 2021 – am I still eligible to apply for MEBAS?

Yes, you can apply for and be a recipient of both the LPSS and MEBAS.

Who can I contact in relation to this scheme?

All queries can be emailed to MEBAS@tcagsm.gov.ie. If you have an application number, please remember to include this in all correspondence. Please also note that this FAQ document may be updated from time to time.